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Bangalore Mirror

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Welcome site: Ramsar tag to Ranganathittu

Experts welcome declaration of bird sanctuary as Ramsar site; say it will strengthen protection regime of this biodiversity site

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The only state in the South with no Ramsar site till now finally got one on Wednesday. This is after the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) declared the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Mandya district as a Ramsar site.

This feather in the cap will ensure a systematic protection and conservation regime in place for the sanctuary. According to environmentalists and wetland experts, the tag will make it mandatory to strengthen the protection regime of this biodiversity site.

Experts say the designation will also help in boosting the local economy through eco-tourism and international funding for the conservation of the sanctuary.

"It is a welcome move. Finally, we are understanding the importance of getting our wetlands the Ramsar tag. This recognition will boost eco-tourism and will enhance the livelihood of people in the neighboring area too. It is an ecologically important and fragile ecosystem and international funding after the tag will help in taking up more conservation activities," said Dr TV Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc.

Many more sites in the state are good candidates for the Ramsar tag, experts say. The Government of India aims at having 75 Ramsar sites in the 75th year of independence and Karnataka should encash on this opportunity.

"The Centre wants to have 75 wetlands designated as Ramsar sites and we need to take advantage of that. There are sites like Aaghanashini that have to be taken on a priority. It meets all the four criteria required to be a Ramsar site," added Dr Ramachandra.

An official from the Karnataka Forest Department informed BM that as many as 10 wetlands in the state have been identified and nominated to the Government of India by the Forest Department and these wetlands figure in 100 prioritised wetlands of the country. While work on declaring other Ramsar sites is in progress, experts say the Aghanashini estuary located in the central Uttara Kannada district should have already been declared a Ramsar site.

> "It is an ecologically important and fragile ecosystem and international funding after the tag will help in taking up more conservation activities
>
> —Dr TV Ramachandra, IISc

"The estuary meets all the criteria required for a site to be tagged as a Ramsar site. It supports more than 45,000 birds of which 40% are migratory. Moreover, over 1% of the population of 39 bird species are found here. It also falls under the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) and is already regarded as an ecologically sensitive area. The proposal to declare Aghanashini as Ramsar was submitted three years ago by IISc with scientific evidence. However, it is yet to get the much-deserved tag," said Ramachandra.

It also supports 6,500-7,000 families that depend on the ecosystem for natural resources apart from aiding as filters, shoreline protection, diverse habitats (mudflats, sand flats, etc.), and distinct micro and macro biota.

Apart from Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary India also added nine more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make a total of 64 sites covering an area of 12,50,361 ha in the country. Now, India strands at first position jointly with China. The 10 new sites include six in Tamil Nadu, and one site each in Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha are included in newly designated sites.

US tourist visas, come September

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Tourists eyeing a trip to the United States, can rejoice as the US is set to open visas for tourists in September. All those whose applications were cancelled can now apply again.

For those with families and relatives in the US, it has been a long wait. In the absence of tourist visas, they had to miss several occasions with near and dear ones.

Chandan M, a resident of Bellandur, said his daughter gave birth to a son in January this year. "My wife and I had applied for the visa months ago but it was on hold for more than two months. Seeing that the process was not going anywhere, we decided to drop the plan and try later. It was disappointing to not be beside my daughter at that time, but we are planning to apply for the visas towards the end of the year," he said.

Paavas Nair, a Hebbal resident too had to cancel his travel plans. "We were planning to visit in August. But we were kept on hold by our travel agent. He kept saying there are no appointments every time we asked him so we decided to visit some other place."

Travel agents told BM that seeing that slots for visas were available only in 2024, many are giving up on their plans of visiting the US. They also said that before the pandemic, it would only take around two weeks for the visa to get approved. Sudhir BC, a travel agent said, "Many people cancelled their trip after getting frustrated at not getting appointments. People have complained to me that they missed their marriages and other occasions, but there was nothing to do. This has been the condition since March 2020."

Travel agents also said that they were facing problems in getting appointments for Schengen visas. Baishak K, a travel agent, said, "We are not getting any appointment for Schengen visas either as there is no slot for them."

Costlier flights

People who have booked international flights with Lufthansa Airlines have to pay more as the airlines have recently announced that they would only allow one check-in luggage per person from August 1. Passengers will have to pay between 150-200 euros and 5% GST for any extra luggage. With the fares for international flights higher than usual, travellers are worried about the extra cost. Rohith Krishna, a resident of Whitefield, said, "I was planning to make a trip to Vancouver, the ticket for which was already expensive at almost Rs 1 lakh, and now the new rule of carrying only one check-in baggage has made it pricier. For an extra 23 kg, I have to pay almost Rs 14,000. Because of this, I have cancelled the plan for now."

Some passengers have also decided to shift to other airlines. Abhijith S is travelling to the United States to study sports management. He said, "I recently got notification from my university that I have to be there before August 30. So I was trying to book a Lufthansa flight, but the tickets were already priced at around Rs 2 lakh. So we are now looking at other flight options." Students going to study abroad usually have more luggage than other travellers. Travel agents suspect the spike in oil prices to be the reason for the new rule. Shamanth Krishnamurthy from Sanman travels, said people going for work or study will require more than one baggage as they will be going for a long time. "This move may be due to increase in oil prices and to generate more revenue from baggage," he said.

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As ward-wise reservation has ex-mayors scouting for new areas to contest from ahead of BBMP polls, Congress alleges its leaders are being targeted

WARDLE

Prominent politicians' wards merged with other wards or reserved

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At long last, the much-awaited and anticipated notification of ward-wise reservation is out, ahead of electing a council for Bengaluru city. More than 80 wards are reserved for candidates from other backward classes and 28 wards are reserved for scheduled caste candidates.

The element of intrigue in the whole exercise is that most of the wards represented by prominent politicians are either merged with other wards or reserved for other categories such as women, backward classes or scheduled castes. All mayors of past BBMP councils have to look for other wards than the wards from which they were elected.

For instance, Gautam Kumar, who was the mayor when the BBMP council term ended in September 2020, cannot contest from Jogupalya ward in Shanthinagar as it is now reserved for women (general). He has to contest from a ward outside Shanthinagar assembly constituency as all the wards there are either reserved for SC candidates, women or backward classes.

Former mayor Gangambike Mallikarjun has to contest from Ashoka Pillar constituency as Jayanagar ward is merged with two wards – Ashoka Pillar and Shakthi Ganapathi.

Former mayor G Padmavathi has to look out for a ward as Prakash Nagar is reserved for women from backward classes A category. Congress party may not field her for the council elections as she is the potential candidate to contest from Rajajinagar assembly constituency in the state assembly elections.

Likewise, former mayor Sampath Raj, who hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons during the DJ Halli riots, has to look for another ward as Devarajeevanahalli ward is reserved for women from backward classes A category.

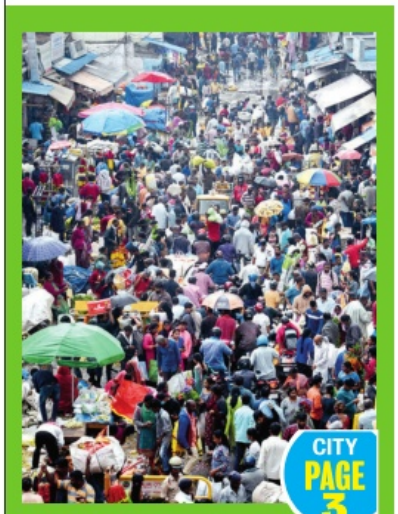
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

> "...ruling party politicians do not want prominent Congress leaders to contest in BBMP council elections
>
> — M Shivaraju, Congress

CITY PAGE 2

Indiranagar submerged

Torrential downpour leaves dry waste collection centre wet



CITY PAGE 3

Shop in the rain

Incessant rainfall turns dampener for festival shopping

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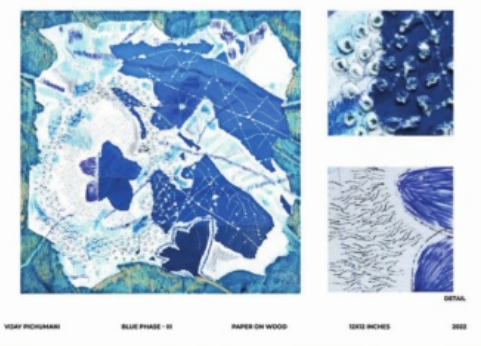
3 THINGS TO DO

01 Contemporary clothing

'Dhaari' is an upcoming young designer label which promotes handloom textiles and hand embroideries. Visit Raintree to view their capsule collection of contemporary silhouettes with clever cuts, asymmetric patterns and simple wearable clothing.
Venue: Raintree, opposite Hotel ITC Windsor ; When: Aug 5 and 6, 10.30 am-6.30 pm



02 Flower speak

Art Houz Presents "Pichumani Re-imagined Reality", a solo show by Vijay Pichumani. In his latest suite of works titled "Re - Imagined Reality", his thematic content is premised on flowers. The idea of engaging with flowers came to him while walking in his hometown, and along the muddy paths he discovered a number of colourful flowers that attracted him.
Where: Art Houz, Vasanthnagar
When: Till August 13, 10.30 am – 6.30 pm

03 Shuffle Dance

Learn Shuffle Dance or "'Cutting Shapes' as it is sometimes called. This dance form is characterised by quick and slick footwork, to the beats of the latest EDM music. It's a fun and upbeat dance that has many mental and physical health benefits.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: Aug 5, 7:30pm – 8:30 pm
Register: 9886294444

DRAINED OUT

MELVIN MATHEW

Spot the road: A resident tries to cross a flooded stretch in Indiranagar Stage II

In Indiranagar, even BBMP's dry waste collection centre is inundated, posing a safety risk; parks and roads waterlogged too

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Whenever it rains, even for a wee spell, the BBMP Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) under Hoysala Nagar ward in Indiranagar's Stage II can be easily mistaken for a slush pond. Water also enters the BBMP office for Citizen Service Centre. BBMP officials say that the issue occurs whenever it rains and they have been suffering for 10-15 years. Officials struggle with the smell of rainwater that gets mixed with the sewage. The inundated office becomes a safety risk and officials are scared to enter, let alone the public.

Citizen Service Centres were established by BBMP to enable citizens to pay their property tax and officials say that even after paying all kinds of taxes, residents failing to get basic services, question the purpose of paying taxes.

With water entering the centre, the dry waste either gets washed away or gets drenched in murky water. The washed-away dry waste adds to the problem, blocking the drains.

A BBMP official said, "Once it rains, it becomes very difficult to stay here, even during office hours. Water enters the offices and floods all the spaces. It's been six months since I arrived at this centre and have been facing the same issue. The water only drains away after eight-nine hours. With officials only suffering like this, you can imagine how the citizens are inconvenienced." Officials also complained that the building does not have a public toilet or ventilation provision. Being in a dilapidated state, officials want the building to be demolished.

Apart from the DWCC and the Citizen Service Centre, there is another property tax building on the opposite side with a park in the middle. Even residents liv around the park suffer from the same apathy. Walkers have to wade through the stinking water and are left with no other choice. Even the footpaths remain under water and with few slabs missing, there is an added fear of people falling inside the drains. The ground floor of the houses specifically ones without raised ramps also witness significant damage to their belongings. Residents claim that even with a little rain, the area floods up. "Yesterday, when it rained, water seeped inside and destroyed many valuables and furniture. We have been seeing this issue since 1986," said a resident.

BBMP officials say this issue has been there for 15 years

THE SOAK IS ON US

Another resident, Krishnamurthy Kailasam said that the problem lies with the engineering of the drain. "There is a need for an L- shaped structure to be added to the drain to prevent the water from coming back. We have been insisting BBMP officials construct this," he added.

Senior citizens also struggle to step out even in cases of medical emergencies. An 82-year-old senior citizen, Hema Rangan said, "If it floods, there is no option for me other than to sit and wait for help. I am helpless if there is a medical emergency."

Another resident added, "This is the second time this year. Water enters their house whenever it rains. Some residents had to struggle up to 3 am draining out the water. I had to spend Rs 50,000 towards fixing my vehicle after getting stuck," said Sydney a resident of the area for the past 4 years."

Six-year resident of the area, Aditya Panth chimed that previously the flooding issue had cropped up and the issue was temporarily stopped."Now, again the issue has cropped up. Often, the water sump has to be cleaned due to this flooding," he added.

BBMP Special Commissioner (SWM) Harish Kumar said, "The issue had not been brought to my attention and we will look into it."

At the same time, BBMP said that the stormwater drains were in perfect health and the issue is due to increased rain in the city.

"The flooding could be accounted for heavy rainfall; yesterday the city received almost 130 mm rainfall is overwhelming the stormwater drains (SWD). The SWDs are de-silted and cleared for the rains. But the recent rains could have washed up silt back in the drain and it's not possible to clear it while it's raining. We will take up the work when it's possible," said Chief Engineer (SWD) Lokesh.

Panathur, RUBed the wrong way

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The Panathur Railway Under Bridge (RUB) has been a source of anxiety for the commuters for a while now. Whether it is spending long hours in traffic jams or the rains, the entire RUB gets flooded and there has been no fixes so far. While the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) decided to build another RUB parallel to the existing one, the work is in slow progress.

During Wednesday's heavy rain, children staying in the area were stuck for long hours in their school bus as the engine stopped due to water seeping in. From 3 pm - 7pm the bus was stuck.

The parents of the children even pointed out that the children were hungry in the buses. Hence some Samaritans staying close by came for their help and provided them with juice and biscuits. For the children who had to use washrooms, they were helped by the local residents. One of the residents said, "This issue happens every year. After repeated complaints to the civic authorities, yet nothing had changed. Many cars were stuck as well and the ones on two-wheeler had to push their bike and move."

Another resident said, "If there is any medical emergency and such a situation happens what can one do? Even the road after RUB is a narrow stretch which is only 10-metre-wide and is a one-way area; there is huge traffic congestion and people take hours to cross it."

The BBMP team pointed out that they were aware of the issue and were working on it. "We got the JCB and made provisions for the water to drain out from the vent."

Water, water everywhere, but nowhere to drain out on this Railway Under Bridge

Shopping in the rain

On the eve of Vara Mahalakshmi festival, B'lureans managed to shop on a rainy day though drizzle did play spoilsport to vendors' great expectations

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KAUSHIK JN

Vendors of perishable items like flowers have it the toughest on rainy days though Thursday was crowded at KR Market

The incessant rainfall in the city on Thursday turned out to be a dampener for festival shopping. Many Bengalureans are celebrating Vara Mahalakshmi festival on Friday. As a result, markets were decked up to attract customers. However, rainfall throughout the day poured water on the shopping plans.

Shiva Kumara S, a vendor from Malleswaram, said, "We have suffered losses for the last two years as there were covid restrictions. This year, with covid cases still under control, we were hoping that the festival business would pick up. In fact, most of us have invested huge sums to buy items in bulk to sell for retail festival shopping. However, the continuous rainfall is forcing people to stay away from markets. As we mostly deal with perishable goods, we are now staring at a big loss."

Shantamma R, a flower vendor at KR Market said, at the beginning of the holy month of Shravana Maasa, many festivals are now lined up. "Many farmers grow flowers in their fields so that they can get their produce during these months as the demand for flowers increases during festivals. For the last two years, it was not just traders but even the farmers who had incurred huge losses as there was no demand for flowers. This year, the flower prices have hit the roof and we have invested our hard earned money to buy flowers. However, there is hardly any demand as rains are keeping away the customers. The worst part is that due to rainfall, most of the flowers are getting damaged and even those customers who are braving rainfall to buy flowers are rejecting such flowers."

> **"This year, flower prices have hit the roof. We have invested a lot to buy flowers. But, there is hardly any demand as rains are keeping away customers**
>
> –Shantamma R, flower vendor

Many traders who mainly operate their business in the evening times have been reporting losses for the last few months. "This year, the city has experienced heavy rainfall even before the monsoon officially entered the State. It has been observed that we are experiencing heavy rainfall during the evening times which is actually the peak time for business as people come from their offices and factories and head to shops to buy items. Every morning, we are scared about the day's business prospects as rainfall has become an almost daily phenomenon in the city for the last few weeks," said a trader.

Shwetha Kumar, a teacher said their family was looking forward to the long weekend as Friday is Vara Mahalakshmi festival, followed by weekend and next Tuesday is also a holiday for educational institutions. "On Thursday, I went to the market to buy goods but got stuck in the rain. Most of the roads are dug up and the entire road has turned slushy so it was difficult to walk," she said.

Pro tip: Avoid water-logging prone areas

The Met Department has predicted rainfall in the city till August 8. Under the influence of weather systems, extremely heavy rainfall spells are also likely at isolated places over Coastal and South Interior Karnataka on Friday.

The Met department has predicted heavy rainfall likely to occur at isolated places in Bengaluru Urban on Friday. "The Southwest monsoon was active over Interior Karnataka and weak over Coastal Karnataka. Rainfall occurred at most places over the State. Napoklu (Kodagu dist) received the highest of 12 cm rainfall, while Electronics city received 8 cm."

Flooded Hebbagodi underpass

The impact expected on account of extremely heavy and very heavy rainfall spells could be localised flooding of roads, water logging in low lying areas and closure of underpasses mainly in urban areas. There could be occasional reduction in visibility due to heavy rainfall besides disruption of traffic in major cities due to water logging in roads leading to increased travel time. So, residents are warned to check for traffic congestion on their route before leaving for their destination. "Follow any traffic advisories that are issued in this regard. Avoid going to areas that face the water logging problems often and avoid staying in vulnerable structure," said an advisory from Met department. —BMB

Posh layout turns island

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Residents of Rainbow Drive Layout stage a protest

It is one of the posh localities of Bengaluru, but the downpour did not spare anyone. Rainbow Drive Layout on Sarjapur Road has been off from the other parts of the city for the last two days now. As its roads turned into pools, residents had to wade through to even to protest.

Priyanca Mathur is a Professor at Jain University and a resident of this layout. "I need to reach the university to take the classes on time. But with roads full of water, it is so difficult," she told Bangalore Mirror.

Balaji Suresh, an engineer, put the blame on the shoddy drainage system that was unable to tackle even small amount of rain. "The outlet drains are blocked by debris. There are several defects in the design such as pipes are inaccessible under the road and have no capacity to carry water," he said. He said the last few times the BBMP cleared the pipes, only a few stones were removed. "Added to this sewage pipe is connected to the storm water drains. Overflow from the lakes is damaging the roads and drains," he said. Raja Vonna, an IT professional said they have been cut off from the main road for the last 48 hours. "Tractor is the only means of transport for patients, school-going kids or essential services," he said.

ಚಿತ್ರಕಲಾ ಪರಿಷತ್ ದಸ್ತಕಾರ್ ನೇಚರ್ ಉತ್ಸವ್
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What's that stench? Official negligence

Four years on, Hennur Road residents still wait for authorities to take care of stinking landfill

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

This landfill in Belahalli, Hennur Road is responsible for giving residents in surrounding areas a difficult time for over four years now due to the unbearable stench emanating from it

For hundreds of residents living in various swanky apartment complexes and housing societies on Hennur Road, unbearable stench for days in a row has become a common occurrence. They say the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's Mittaganahalli garbage unit has been negligent towards their health and is disrupting their daily life for over four years now.

Serene Sara George, a resident of Salarpuria Sattva Aspire on Hennur Main Road, said, "The landfill is located in Belahalli, around three kilometres away from our apartment complex. We shifted here in 2017 and we have been experiencing the stench since then. When it emanates, we cannot be on our balconies and keep our doors and windows open. We spoke to our panchayat officials about the issue immediately after we shifted. We were told that the landfill will be covered soon and the problem will be fixed, but it has been more than four years and the stench has become worse."

According to locals, the foul smell becomes especially unbearable after a spell of rain. Among the worst hit are the residential societies located close to the massive dump yard.

"Our apartment is situated a kilometre away from the landfill. The bad smell has filled up our houses after Saturday's downpour. There are over 400 families and we are all heavily impacted. A couple of years ago we planted around 2,000 saplings in and around the area to improve air quality. However, it has not helped. There are around six other apartments in the vicinity and over a thousand families live here," said Ashish Singh, a resident of Kolte Patil Raaga Apartment on Kannuru Road.

While residents have been raising this issue time and again with various authorities, no concrete solution has come their way.

"We invited the local MLA as our chief guest during the plantation drive last year. We also reached out to the Commissioner of the Solid Waste Management Division of BBMP. We submitted a written complaint, but no action was taken," rued Singh.

It is not just residential complexes in the vicinity, but even those who stay six or seven kilometres away from the landfill who are facing the brunt.

"Our apartment is around six kilometres away from the landfill, but we still get a strong stench every time it rains. We have always highlighted the issue to panchayat officers and the MLA of the area. The MLA had recently organised a meeting with the residents of the Kannur panchayat area and the issue was raised in the meeting as well. While garbage dumping on the main road has stopped, the landfill remains an issue," said a resident of Shriram Luxor apartment.

> **"The bad smell has filled up our houses after Saturday's downpour** – Ashish Singh, resident

After a series of complaints started pouring in, Aravind Limbavali, BJP MLA from the Mahadevapura constituency, took to Twitter and posted an update.

"The lake adjacent to the Mittaganahalli Garbage Management unit of Kannur in the Mahadevapura assembly constituency has been polluted and is stinking due to the accumulation of garbage. Complaints have been heard about the inconvenience caused to the residents of that area. I visited the spot and inspected the lake. I have instructed the authorities to take appropriate action," read the tweet.

Locals say it is high time authorities come up with a permanent solution to the issue.

Mashood Abdulla, another resident of Shriram Luxor, complained about having to get up from sleep in the middle of the night to shut an open door because of the stench entering his house.

Unsung heroes manning Outer Ring Road

Bellie Thomas
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TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

The Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) employed 25 traffic marshals in 2006 for taking care of the heavy-traffic area

Silk Board junction's traffic congestion has generated memes for some time now. A couple of popular ones on social media that would pop up include - 'Dropped my friend at Bangalore Airport as he was leaving for Dubai. He reached Dubai an hour ago and I'm still stuck in traffic at Silk Board Junction'.

"The Outer Ring Road (ORR), from Silk Board Junction to KR Puram, is heavily congested as every other commercial establishment on both sides are either IT/BT establishments or BPOs and call centres.

Traffic management at these corridors is considered to be a Herculean task. Traffic movement is being managed by a group of 25 traffic marshals employed by ORRCA and trained by Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP)," explained Krishna Kumar Gowda, Operations Manager, Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA).

These traffic marshals not only diligently attend weekly and monthly meetings called upon by the BTP, but also offer inputs on how changes can be made at each stretch of road they patrol.

"Recently, the marshals patrolling on Yulu bikes, during a Maasika Janasamparka (monthly meeting involving police, other stake-holders, members of the general public), explained why there was water logging on certain stretches of Outer Ring Road and its service roads due to incessant rain and how it could be avoided," said Shailendhar, an IT employee on ORR.

They also find loose OFC cables, check if footpaths have to be set right, keep a look out for illegal flex boards, and remove nails from trees, Shailendhar told Bangalore Mirror.

These 25 marshals have been employed by the ORRCA since 2006. With the city's traffic density witnessing an enormous jump, their duties have increased on the 17-kilometre-stretch.

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Messy situation
Wheeler Road

Below Wheeler Road flyover, dumped garbage and old parked vehicles are making a mess.

Miscreants in action
Vinobha Nagar

Robbers smashed the glass of an auto recently due to no CCTV cameras being present behind KG Halli Police Station, 5th cross Vinobha Nagar. Such things happen daily.

Pothole paradise
Padarayanapura

There are 9-10 potholes in 13th cross Padarayanapura, Arafath Nagar. Minor accidents keep happening.

4 tips to disinfect precious jewels

How to get rid of dirt, scratches from jewellery and keep them good as new

Jewellery is something precious that everyone owns and when they are the expensive ones, we tend to get very possessive about them. However, it is not always possible to take the best care of them, hence to get rid of the dirt and scratches, we must know of ways to disinfect them at home.

One of the most common questions people ask about jewellery cleaning is how often it should be done. It's important to consider the item's condition and wear before scheduling a cleaning. For instance, engagement rings should be cleaned every other week. The best part is that the lustre of your jewellery pieces can easily be restored at home itself with just some simple tips and tricks without shelling lots of money for a professional, as suggesteed by Tejas Nagda- CEO, Operations and Marketing, Antara Jewellery.

Let's discuss how to disinfect different precious jewellery types-

Cleaning with mild washing agents

The most basic DIY technique is to mix a few drops of the basic dish-washing liquid with warm water. Soak a soft cloth in the mixture and then rub the jewellery to remove the tarnish. Wash it with cool, clean water then and use a new soft cloth to buff dry it.

Try an ultrasonic cleaner

If you're not able to remove dust and grime from intricate pieces, then you might want to try using an ultrasonic cleaner. It can do a great job of keeping the surface clean and free of dirt, even from places that are hard to reach. Although an ultrasonic cleanser does not remove all of the tarnish, it can be used to treat complex pieces, such as those with lots of crevices.

Avoid harsh cleaning

Never use cleaning products that are commonly used by housewives, such as baking soda and toothpaste, on your jewellery. Doing so will lead to the removal of tiny amounts of metal, which can damage and deplete your investment. Although gold vermeil jewellery is usually cleaned in this manner, it should not be done in this way to prevent it from getting damaged. Before you start using a cleaning tool, it's important to understand what types of gold are involved. Also, make sure that you use a polishing cloth and a brush when it comes to removing dirt from your jewellery, especially if it has a delicate finish.

Take proper care of your jewellery

Make it a habit to remove your finger rings when you wash your hands, apply creams and lotions, clean the house and specifically make sure to apply your perfume/deo before putting on earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. Chlorine and saltwater hamper jewellery the most, hence avoid wearing them while swimming. Always use soft and new cloth pieces to clean your jewellery and to remove body oils and perfume that can yellow them. Silver pieces must be worn more often than kept in a box.

Although it is not difficult to clean jewellery, it is important to follow the proper technique when it comes to removing dirt from it. Doing so will prevent it from getting damaged.

Gem of Namma Bengaluru

Vidya Nagasampige is one of the first women in her family to start her own venture and today she is one of the very few and popular Astro-gemologists in Bengaluru. Daughter of Sri. Vijayeendracharya Nagasampige, an astrologer, Vidya was introduced to gemology by her father while she was trying to explore new domains. After shifting to Bengaluru with her husband, she was working as a senior gemologist in Jayanagar. However, her dream of having something of her own kept gnawing at her.

She had grown up watching her dad provide solutions to everyone who came to him. By now with the guidance of her father, she also understood how beneficial gems were in relieving the problems that people were facing. This is how she came up with the decision of opening her own gem store-Balaji Gems and Diamonds. To have better knowledge about her field, she also did a course on metallurgy.

Balaji Gems and Diamonds in DVG road is a one stop shop. With her knowledge of gemology and after learning astrology from her father, Vidya tells people the exact kind of gem that would suit them along with the kind of quality and purity that is used. Not just Astro-gemology, Vidya also provides the service of customising jewellery. The customers will just have to show her the design they want, and the rest will be taken care of by Vidya. She says that in a few places customers are cheated with low quality gems. Hence, to prevent her customers from facing such issues, she started providing the service of making jewelry in which she later included customising other jewelry as well.

Gem consultancy, gem testing in the lab, customized jewelry designing, and manufacturing are the services that Vidya provides in her store. Her store has recently started selling pure quality diamonds as well. In her initial days, Vidya would test the gems on herself and find out about their effects. If she saw good results, she would suggest her family members wear it and only after getting good and proven results, would she suggest it for her customers. This trial-and-error method gave her more knowledge about the gems. Her knowledge in metallurgy also helped her in understanding the purity and usage of gold and silver while making jewelry and helped her use the best quality of gold and silver while making jewelry.

With knowledge of gemology and learning of astrology from her father, Vidya can tell you which gem suits you and its quality and purity

The customers who come to Vidya, all go back satisfied with the service they receive. Her customer base has increased despite the lockdown because the customers say that the gems suggested by Vidya have worked wonders for them and they have been back with their family members as well. While procuring the gems, Vidya personally visits the place and makes sure of the clarity and purity of the gem. She provides to her customers pure gemd which is neither heated nor treated.

While working, Vidya has also realised that a combination of gems can provide greater benefit to the people and she has also suggested that to her customers, who have gotten excellent results.

Not just to the jewellers of Bengaluru, Vidya's store has provided gems to the most renowned temples such as Sri Uttaradi Math, Mantralaya Sri Raghavendra Swamy Temple and Sri Bhandarakeri Matha etc. Her store has also supplied gems to politicians as well as famous Kannada artistes. Vidya is popular in India and abroad too. She has procured gems from places as far as Jammu and Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Colombia and others.

Vidya Nagasampige can be reached at 86605 13468 or balajigemsanddiamond@gmail.com

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CHANGE OF NAME

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I, SHREYANK SHRINATH DHARWAD, S/o, Shrinath Dharwad and residing at D929, Brigade 7 Gardens, Near Thurahalli, Uttarahalli, Bangalore 560061 have changed my name to SHREYANK DHARWAD vide affidavit dated 03.08.2022 sworn before notary B.V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I Anandakumar G S/O, Gopalnaidu M R/o No-22/1/1,mathrusree Nilaya, 9thcross,3rd Mainroad, srinivasanagar, bangalore-560050.have Changed My Name To Anand Kumar G

I Lingappa S/O, Jadeppa R/o At Ho/no/e/25 Peeragar Doddi, Kekkera, Yadgir - 585215 have changed my name to Ningappa for all purposes.

I, LAKSHMI DEVI CHANDRU, W/o, Chandru Venkatarayappa and residing at No.27, 19th Cross, 20th 'B' Main, 5th Phase, Sms Layout, J P Nagar, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to LAKSHMI DEVI vide affidavit dated 30.07.2022 sworn before notary B.V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, ANKITHA SREE GOWDA NAGESH, D/o, Nagesh Krishnappa and residing at S-261, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Telecom Layout, Thanisandra, Bangalore 560077 have changed my name to ANKITHA SREE GOWDA vide affidavit dated 30.07.2022 sworn before notary B.V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, POOJA SRIVASTAVA, W/o, Sohail Chunchu and residing at No.14, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Someshwara Nagar, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore 560011 have changed my name to ZAINAB SAHER vide affidavit dated 20.07.2022 sworn before notary B.V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, Predeepa Balemane Venkataramanaiah S/o Venkataramanaiah B.C R/o #2949, Balemane, 8th main 3rd cross, Kumarswamy layout 2nd stage Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Predeep Balemane Venkataramanaiah affidavit dt 04/08/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

I, RENUKA W/o. Dayanand Yallappa Magi, R/o.107 S block Indu heights Apts, 6th Cross,5th main, Kaggadas - pura,CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560093 have changed name to RENUKA NAGENDRA KATTIMANI affidavit Dt. 04/08/2022 before notary A R Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I Deepak Mula Ram S/O, Mularam R/o #38, Chinnanna Gowda Layout, Anekal Road, Attibele, Bangalore 562107 have changed my name to Deepak M Choudhary for all purposes.

I Chakradar Raju Ragunath S/O, Ragunath R/o J102, Purva Fairmont, 25th Cross, 24th Main, Hsr Layout, Sector 2, Bengaluru 560102 have changed my name to Chakradar Raju

I Neil Ambiye S/O, Mayur Subhash Ambiye R/o N0-7084 - k2,sobha Chrysanthemum, thanisandra Main Road, Dr Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru, 560077 have changed my name to Neil Mayur Ambiye for all purposes

I A P Meena W/O, P Srinivasan R/o 1130 Nandi Padam 7th Block, Hmt Layout, Vidyaranyapura Hmt Layout, Vidyaranyapura have changed my name to Meena Srinivasan

I Muniraja S/O, Muniyallappa R/o #233 Near Muneshwara Temple, Veerasandra, Bengaluru 560100, have changed my name to Muniraju Muniyallappa for all purposes.

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This road is not a bar, mind it

Police crack down on boozing in public places, especially on stretch of road to airport

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TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

The Northeast Division Police have started a special drive for curbing alcohol consumption in public places, especially enroute to the Kempegowda International Airport. The stretch has a large number of bars, restaurants, pubs, and road-side eateries situated on both sides.

Police have come across a growing nuisance of people consuming alcohol at public places such as footpaths, empty plots, and sometimes inside cars and bikes.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, North East Division, was apprised by his subordinates about this situation, following which a special drive was carried out in the last week of July until the first week of August.

"In a special drive to curb alcohol consumption in public places, seven FIRs have been registered against 16 people under Section 15(A) of the Excise Act," stated Anoop Shetty.

People found buying liquor from bars and then having a party in their cars

Section 15(A) of the Karnataka Excise Act states the following:

'No person being the owner or in-charge of the management or control of any public place shall allow consumption of liquor or no person shall consume liquor in any public place unless consumption of liquor in such place is permitted under a license granted by the Excise Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner.'

Menace catches police attention after pourakarmikas complain to supervisors about non-stop littering of vacant plots

Police sources from the Northeast Police Division told Bangalore Mirror that there are a large number of wine shops and MRP liquor outlets on both sides of the service roads on Airport Road, and people who purchase liquor from these outlets either consume alcohol sitting inside their vehicles or at nearby vacant plots.

This menace caught police attention when a group of pourakarmikas complained to their supervisors that the littering of alcohol bottles, plastic cups, and plastic water bottles has become a never-ending issue for them, especially close to liquor outlets. Sometimes they even stumble upon broken glass bottles and find it difficult to clean.

Soon after DCP Anoop Shetty learnt about the situation, he ordered his subordinates to conduct a drive and bring an end to it.

Police sources said that bars and dhabas that had deeper pockets were bribing not only lower rung police officials but also BESCOM officials to switch off street lights at night to allow their customers to relax and drink.

Who's ward is it?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Manjunath Reddy, the first mayor of a five-year term-BBMP council, represented Madiwala ward; now the ward is reserved for women candidates from general category.

The irony is that two corporators – M Shivaraju and Abdul Wajid of the Congress – who were in the forefront demanding the state government to hold elections to the BBMP council at the earliest, cannot contest from the same wards as before – Shankar Mutt and Manorayanapalya. While Shankar Mutt is reserved for candidates from scheduled castes, Manorayanapalya is reserved for women from backward classes A category.

M Shivaraju told Bangalore Mirror that the state government has targeted all prominent leaders of the Congress party. "I cannot contest even from my neighbouring wards – Puneeth Rajkumar and Shakthi Ganapathi Nagar – reserved for candidates from backward classes B category and women from general category. I am of the opinion that ruling party politicians do not want prominent Congress politicians to contest in BBMP council elections," said Shivaraju.

Padmanabha Reddy, who was the leader of opposition (as BJP candidate) and ruling party leader in the BBMP council for the longest time, is also on the look out for a ward as Kacharakanahalli is now reserved for women from general category.

CR Lakshminarayan, who contested from Domlur ward as an independent candidate, and supported the ruling party in the BBMP council, cannot contest from the same ward as it is now reserved for candidates from scheduled castes.

Among the 243 wards, 130 wards are reserved for candidates from general category. The notification on reservation of wards was issued after the Supreme Court directed the state government to complete the formalities as early as possible to hold the elections to the BBMP council. The poll to the council is pending since September 2019.

The notification stated that the persons who are aggrieved by the ward-wise reservation may submit their objections with reasons in writing, addressed to the additional chief secretary to the government, Urban Development Department, Room No. 436, 4th floor, Vikas Soudha, within seven days from the date of this notification in the Karnataka State Extraordinary Gazette.

"The objections received after the prescribed time will not be considered," the notification said.

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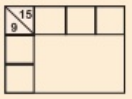
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Maximum possible number of SUNDAYS in 3 consecutive calendar months is ?

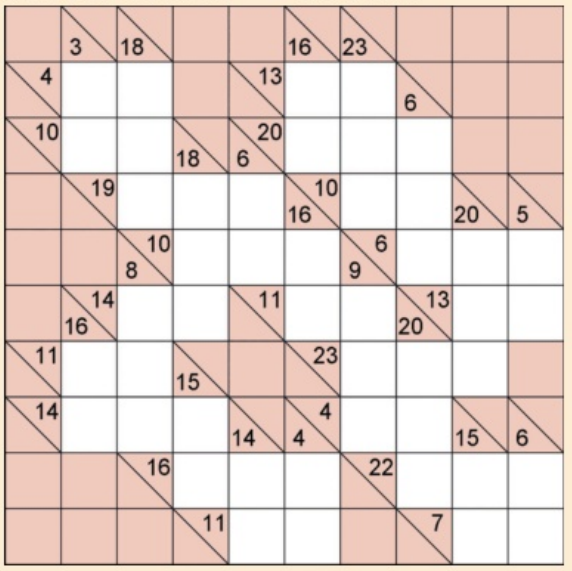
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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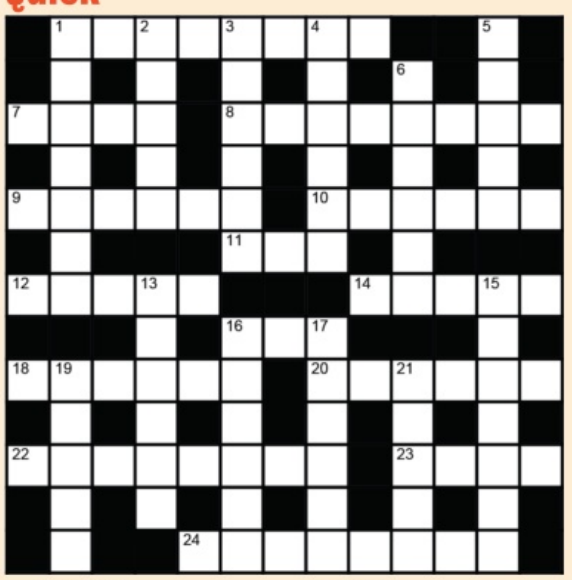


ACROSS

1 Sending out (8)
7 European capital (4)
8 Micromegas author (8)
9 Colouring stick (6)
10 Warehouse in our country? (6)
11 Command to a horse (3)
12 Rural poem (5)
14 Item in a log (5)
16 Call for help (3)
18 Protective headgear (6)
20 Ill (6)
22 Contagious skin disease (8)
23 A mythical god (4)
24 Soothes or calms (8)

DOWN

1 Made certain (7)
2 Sarcasm or ridicule (5)
3 Rescuing or safeguarding (6)
4 Help or do a favour to (6)
5 Ship's propeller (5)
6 ___ City: Bangalore of course (6)
13 Hobbled (6)
15 Large gatherings of people (7)
16 Unemotional sorts (6)
17 Japanese number puzzle (6)
19 An ant (5)
21 Incorrect (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS L

TYFP ZN O YNKF OQX L'RR PKLJN WFA O JKOHNXW.

Linemaro

Next time you're counting beautiful things, don't forget to count yourself

Mindchow

Where wise actions are the fruit of life, wise discourse is the pollination

Joke of the day

Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company

Loop

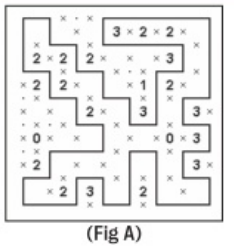
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

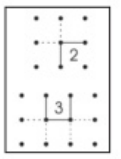
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

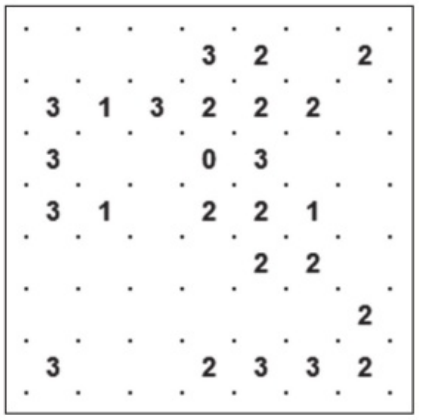
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



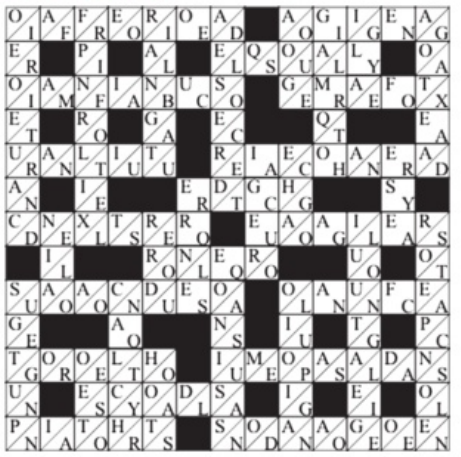
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 Y
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

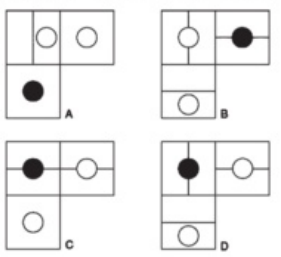
1 NY att.; 6 Eager; 7 Boson; 8 Are to; 9 Bahts

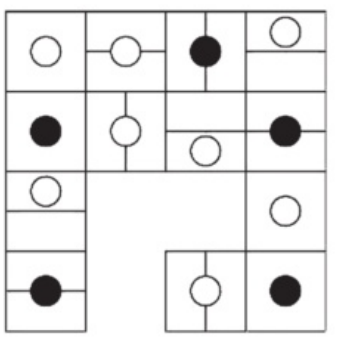
DOWN

1 An bob; 2 A Argo; 3 Tarot; 4 He TNT; 5 Essey

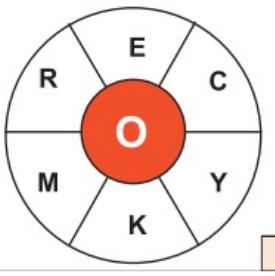
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3			1		9			7
6		7				9		2
	8						3	
		6	4		3	7		
	4		5		1		6	
		1	6		7	5		
	9						4	
8		4				2		3
2			3		8			6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

3 3 6 8

Medium = 9

1 2 2 6

Hard = 4

2 7 7 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

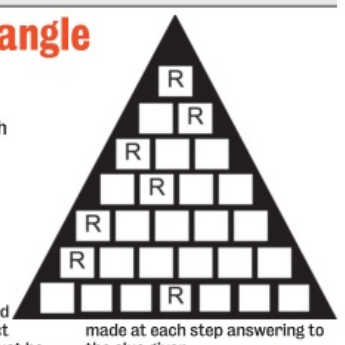
Differences: 1. Shirt on sign is smaller. 2. Suit on hanger is missing. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Pocket is different. 5. Coat sleeve is longer. 6. Letter "A" is lower.

Riddler

I am feared by many people; but scramble my letters and I become hated. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Infra-red abbr
3 Big van
4 It might be foolish
5 Time of rule
6 Get back
7 Inculcate



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

WERE DINOSAURS STILL AROUND WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, GRANNY ?
5-23
WHAT'S THE PENALTY IN THIS TERRITORY FOR POPPING A KID IN THE CHOPPERS ?

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE EVERY PEST CONTROL ITEM THAT BEAN'S END MAKES... I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING...
5-30
PLANTS?
SHOOT!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today disputes with the siblings may be resolved. Your vital force seems to be good and may help you complete difficult projects easily. You may expand your network after a work-related trip. You may also help needy people. You could meet an influential person who will be helpful in the near future in terms of your profession.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be busy with your family and enjoy your time with them. You can expect new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control your expenditure on worthless items. You may buy some worthwhile things which can increase your social status. Kid's academics will keep you occupied.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel more energetic. Your performance may be fast and you may complete your tasks on time, which will make you happy. You may also encourage someone who is depressed. Your prestige will be increased now. There may be some balance between your domestic and professional life. Those related to import and export, trading, and strategy analysts may do better now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today some dissatisfaction may come into your mind, making you lazy and dull. It can affect your current speed of work, causing delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decision in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews. Do not waste precious time on worthless tasks.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel dull. Your focus may be lost towards your targets. Your expectations may be very high, and because of impatience, you may not be able to fulfil them. You are advised to be careful about adventure tours and driving rashly. By afternoon your profits may be increased. You may start working with some new clients, which will boost business in the near future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are likely to control your internal weakness after analysing yourself. You may be confident. You may fight against addictions of any kind. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds will now have clarity about their relationship. You can expect opportunities for overseas travel. Students will hear good news in terms of their academics.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today situations are under control, making you feel better. You may plan for overseas travel. Your network may help you on the work front. There is some increase in domestic harmony. You could bring some artefacts or creative items for your family or office. You may also plan to watch movies with friends or family.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
In the starting of the week, you will see financial gains. You will strike a balance between your earnings and expenses, which will boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better at your job. Your boss will give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You will get back money from lenders. You may be able to have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Health should improve.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some items to decorate it and maintain your social status. There is likely to be harmony with your spouse. This would create harmony in your domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may settle down. You may get good news in terms of litigation.

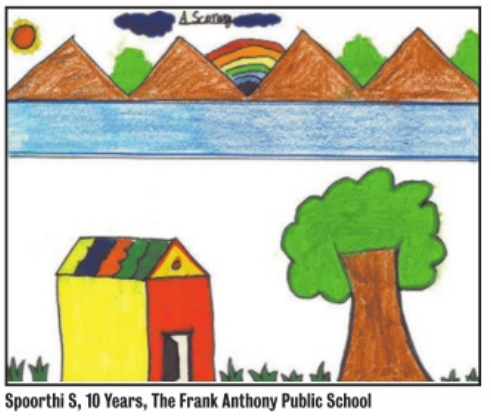
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel energetic. Old illnesses may be cured now. You may hear some good news from your relatives. You may perform well in the office and your juniors will help you with a difficult project. You may develop trust in your juniors. You may also hear good news about legal matters.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel like life is difficult. You may take help from your elders. You need to keep patience. Kid's education could also make you upset. You may travel due to your children's academics. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making an investment. You may plan for a course which will enhance your educational skills.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today may not be a positive day. You could be disappointed. Your focus towards your work may not be good, affecting your routine. Your projects may be delayed. it is advised to sustain yourself in a potentially negative situation. Investments in fixed assets should be postponed for a while. Renovation plans should also be postponed.

KIDZONE

Kaveri Sriram, 8 Years, Bengaluru



Spoorthi S, 10 Years, The Frank Anthony Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
coke, come, comer, core, cork, corky, mock, mocker, MOCKERY, yore more, rock, rocky, yoke,

RIDDLER
death. Many people fear death. "HATED" is an anagram of "DEATH".

STRIKE OUT

O	F	F	E	R	E	D	■	A	G	I	N	G	N	A
R	I	■	A	■	E	O	U	A	L	■	A	■	■	■
O	M	N	I	B	U	S	■	G	R	A	F	T	■	■
T	■	O	■	A	■	E	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	■
U	N	L	I	T	■	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	■	■
N	■	E	■	E	■	T	C	H	■	Y	■	■	■	■
D	E	X	T	R	O	■	E	A	G	L	E	S	■	■
L	■	O	N	E	R	■	O	■	T	■	■	■	■	■
S	O	A	N	D	S	O	■	L	A	N	C	E	■	■
E	■	O	■	U	■	G	■	P	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	O	O	T	H	■	I	M	P	A	L	A	S	■	■
U	S	C	A	L	A	I	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	■
P	A	T	H	S	■	N	O	N	A	G	O	N	■	■

FAST FIVE

N	A	T	T	Y
A	G	R	E	E
B	O	O	N	S
O	R	A	T	E
B	A	T	H	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Show me a hero and I'll write you a tragedy.

QUICK

E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	■	S	■	■	■	■	■
N	R	■	A	■	B	■	G	■	C	■	■	■	■	■
O	S	L	O	■	V	O	L	T	A	I	R	E	■	■
U	■	N	■	I	■	R	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	■
C	R	A	Y	O	N	■	G	O	D	O	W	N	■	■
E	■	■	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	D	Y	L	L	■	E	N	T	R	Y	■	■	■	■
A	■	■	■	S	O	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	E	L	M	E	T	■	U	N	W	E	L	L	■	■
M	■	P	■	O	■	D	■	R	■	L	■	■	■	■
I	M	P	E	T	I	G	O	■	O	D	I	N	■	■
E	■	O	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	■	A	S	S	U	A	G	E	S	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
D: the last two rows of figures repeat the first two rows of figures in reverse;
maximum days in 3 months = 92
maximum weeks in 3 months = (92 + 6) / 7 = 14
maximum sundays in 3 months = 14...

SOLVE IN 1M

SUDOKU

3	5	2	1	6	9	4	8	7
6	1	7	8	3	4	9	5	2
4	8	9	7	5	2	6	3	1
5	2	6	4	9	3	7	1	8
7	4	8	5	2	1	3	6	9
9	3	1	6	8	7	5	2	4
1	9	3	2	7	6	8	4	5
8	6	4	9	1	5	2	7	3
2	7	5	3	4	8	1	9	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, IR, RIg, GrIn, ReIgn, ReEgaIn, EngraIn.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 8 – 3 + 3 = 14
Medium
6 + 2 – 1 + 2 = 9
Hard
6 – 7 – 2 + 7 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Directors shocked by axing of Batgirl
The directors of "Batgirl" said Wednesday they were "shocked" that the $90 million superhero film had been axed by the studio and will now not be released in any format

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For the love of cinema

Superstar Sudeep on what he looks for in a script and what keeps him going

As a creative person, superstar Kiccha Sudeep says all he looks for in a script is the scope to deliver a never-seen-before presentation as it is difficult to find "new" stories.

The 48-year-old Kannada movie star believes he isn't a "great decision maker" and relies on his instinct before boarding any project as an actor, director or producer.

"There are no new stories, just newer presentations. As long as there is an emotion which can connect with the audience, I make the film. You really can't say that this story is something you haven't ever seen before.

"Maybe, the presentation is something that one hasn't seen before. I sit in a narration with a clean and crystal clear mind and if something has a spark, we go forward with it," Sudeep told PTI in an interview in Delhi.

In his over 25-year career, the actor has starred in Kannada blockbusters "Sparsha", "Kiccha", "Swathi Muthu", "The Villain", "Pailwaan", Telugu-Tamil bilingual "Eega" and Telugu-Hindi bilingual series "Rakta Charitra". He has also served as director, producer and actor on Kannada hits "My Autograph", "No 73, Shanthi Nivasa" and "Veera Madakari".

For Sudeep, all these films were nothing less than a beautiful coincidence.

"To be honest, if something excites me, I just do it," the actor said.

He fondly remembers saying an immediate yes to SS Rajamouli's "Eega", which featured him in a negative role, or the Ram Gopal Varma-directed Hindi movie "Rann" that gave him the opportunity to collaborate with his favourite -- megastar Amitabh Bachchan. "I didn't look forward to something huge when I went to meet Rajmouli sir. He narrated the plot in less than 10 seconds and I just accepted it at that time without thinking that the character was negative... Similarly when 'Rann' came, I was getting a chance to work with Mr Bachchan.

"There was this childlike excitement about working with these two cinema greats. So, I always look for that excitement as I believe that's what works for me. I don't know if I should have made some calculated moves, but right now I am happy with whatever I have," he added.

The key to his ever-growing star value is his passion for cinema and the love the audience showers over him, Sudeep said.

"Cinema is my life. All my growth in life is because of cinema. Films are something I have loved and lived with. Likewise, cinema has loved me too. I don't think I could have survived for 25 years here if the audience hadn't loved me back," he added.

The actor said he feels a sense of pride to have the liberty to tell stories that resonate with him on different levels -- as a viewer, actor, director and producer.

"I take that as an honour to be here... I just do minimal films, I am not four films a year kind of actor. I do just one film a year, so I don't think I can lose out on the passion so easily," he added. PTI

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Lady in red

Janhvi Kapoor can go the whole spectrum from regal to casual in her red outfits. We pick 9 of her red hot looks

Crowned Abhinaya Apsare

Well-wishers and fans of Priyanka Upendra did not hold back with their love for her at the trailer launch of her latest movie Miss Nandini. They also presented her with a title – Abhinaya Apsare. "My fans gave me this title – Abhinaya Apsare – with love and affection. They are the reason I continue acting in Kannada movies for 25 years," said Priyanka.

Priyanka plays the lead role in Miss Nandini as a school teacher. "I thank the director and producer for selecting me for this movie. I did not know how to speak Kannada fluently but director Gurudutt SR helped me a lot. Though I have acted in many Kannada movies, this one is special," said Priyanka.

Gurudutt said they want to convey a message to encourage government schools. "We want the quality of infrastructure at government schools should be on par with private schools," he said.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

On board Monk the Young

Looks like Kannada movies are having a good run with producers. Five persons, Colonel Rajendran (retired), Vinay Babu Reddy, Lal Chand, Gopi Chand and Sarovar, are bankrolling the movie Monk the Young. They are also acting in this movie. "I want the audiences to decide about my movie after watching its trailer. I am sure our movie will become a huge success. It is my debut in a lead role," said Sarovar.

Colonel Rajendran (retired), who joined the Army at the age of 17 and served for 40 years, always wanted to act. "This is my second movie," said Rajendran. Soundraya Gowda,

who plays the female lead, said she quit her job as an engineer to act. "I wanted to act but my parents did not allow me. But, I quit my job to act in this movie," said Soundraya.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

A party Kareena won't be invited for

Kareena and Aamir are 'Koffee' veterans and sure know how to brew some spicy 'Koffee' beans! The duo recently appeared in the fifth episode of 'Koffee With Karan' and as usual showed their candid side on the show.

While Kareena mostly dodged most questions in the rapid-fire round, her response to one of Karan's questions has the Internet talking. Karan spiced up Kareena's rapid-fire round with a question that involved her ex-boyfriend Shahid Kapoor and it has now become the highlight of the episode. Karan asked Kareena, "Who will not be invited to Shahid Kapoor's party?" Kareena responded saying, "Me, I guess."

This response left Karan baffled which he eventually covered up by laughing it off.

Kareena and Aamir graced the 'Koffee' couch for the first time together.

Apart from the fun camaraderie the two stars shared with Karan on the show, they also touched on a couple of serious topics like filmmaking and business, and parenting.